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To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I have been following this action quite closely and I am very disturbed by the proposed settlement. It fails to address one of the most damaging behaviors of Microsoft - the lack of an Open API to a monopoly operating system critical to a large majority of private and public daily operations. Since the source for the API is not open, Microsoft can make hidden changes in the source to "break" competitors products in the area of Office Applications, Browsers, etc. Worse, Microsoft often delivers these changes in the form of "necessary" security patches. This happens on a frequent basis and even if it is entirely "accidental" it seems to be routine for Microsoft and clearly harmful.

The routine problems with Microsoft products in the area of security is also related to their lack of transparency in their API. Independent experts cannot find the problems before the crackers do. The crackers simply decompile the source code to find the security holes. Computer professionals cannot do the same thing because it is illegal and unethical to decompile the API source code without permission. Making the API source open for review to at least independent security engineers is vital for reasons of national security. Cyberterrorrists are not deterred by copyright laws. We shouldn't cripple the computer community's ability to defend our vital computer systems from attack because Microsoft would rather hide the problem for PR purposes.

Thank you.

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> A reasonable explanation will trump the ugly truth every time.
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